

OF NOTE

MISCELLANEA

★ Holiday mailing

Dec. 11 is the deadline for mailing priority, first class letters and cards.

No packages for "Any Servicemember" or Dear Abby program are accepted.

For more information, log on at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/psa/main> and select mailing information at the bottom of page. Then, scroll down to select "Holiday Mailing Deadlines."

★ We Care

Operation We Care Food Drive donations for veterans and their families is under way.

Donations of food items may be taken through **Dec. 10** to the Voluntary Service, Building 1, Room 105 of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

★ Media lab work

The 377th Air Base Wing Multimedia Center Building 20140 is being recarpeted during December.

The areas affected are: Graphics, **Dec. 10**; Public Address/Video Maintenance, **Dec. 11-12**; and Video, **Dec. 15-16**.

During carpet work, the photo lab, studio and alert services, video location shots and public address work operate as normal. In-house production will continue, but work flow may be affected in areas where work is scheduled.

★ COLA increase

Military retired pay, federal retired pay, VA disability compensation, SBP survivor annuities and Social Security included a 2.1 percent cost of living allowance **Dec. 1**. The change will be reflected in checks issued **Jan. 2**.

★ Telephone change

The 24 hour Air Force contact center at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Texas, is changing its toll-free telephone number to 800-616-3775.

To provide better service, several contact centers are being tied to the new number. However, remaining the same are the commercial number at 210-565-5000 and the DSN 665-5000.

PERSONNEL

★ MPF hours

The Military Personnel Flight is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for appointments.

Walk-in customers are welcome noon-2 p.m. in all sections other than Identification Cards, which is open to walk-in all operating hours.

Call 846-8979.

★ myPay site

Users of myPay are cautioned to use the official myPay site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>, to access pay account information.

Look-alike sites are confusing myPay customers into giving personal information at a commercial site.

The Defense Finance Accounting System myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets military members, civilian employees and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online.

Avoid www.mypay.com.

★ No paper LES

Paper copies of Leave and Earnings Statements for military members won't be provided after **Jan. 1**.

To access accounts on-line, starting Jan. 1, military and civilians should visit the finance customer service counter to receive an immediate PIN or logon at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to receive a PIN by mail.

To have a finance employee visit your organization with a laptop computer to provide PINs, call 2nd Lt. Michelle Paquet at 846-7258.

All commanders with personnel that don't normally have access to computers should make a computer available. Computers also are available at the Rio Grande Community Center and at the Library.

★ Name tag

Jan. 1, 2004, is the date wearing the new metallic name tag on service dress uniform and pullover sweaters is mandatory for active duty Air Force members.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service only is the authorized vendors for tags at this time.

Officers purchase their own tags.

OF NOTE

RECRUITING

★ Scouting

To learn more about joining Boy Scout Troop 85, contact Scoutmaster Gerald Axford at 271-0726 or visit a troop meeting **any Monday**, 7 p.m., at the Scout Hut at the northeast corner of Wyoming Boulevard and Pennsylvania Street.

★ Guard openings

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C0X2, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1,

4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1, and 6C0X1.

Full-time active duty positions are also open in the following Air Force specialty codes: 1T1X1, 2A5X1 and 2A7X3.

Contact Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at 109 AW/DPR, Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.af.mil.; DSN 344-2456; 1-800-524-5070.

★ Blood drives

United Blood Services conducts blood drives at:

- ★ Sandia Labs **every Tuesday**, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- ★ Kirtland NCO Academy, **today**, 1-4 p.m.,
- ★ 150th Fighter Wing, **Dec. 7**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.,
- ★ National Nuclear Security Administration, conference rooms A,

B and C, Building 381, **Dec. 10**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.,

★ Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Building 20130, **Dec. 11**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.,

★ Air Force Safety Center/Inspection Agency, **Dec. 12**, 8-11:30 a.m.

ROADWORK

★ South Gate road

Construction at the South Gate **begins today** to install new firing range electrical conduits. The work should last four days.

Follow all signage and barricading, and seek alternate routes when possible.

★ Wyo./Pa. intersection

Repaving at Wyoming Boulevard and Pennsylvania is expected to be through **mid December**.

Follow signs and barricades and use detours at the site, and seek alternate routes when possible.

★ Holiday party

A Children's Holiday Party, sponsored by the 377th Mission Support Squadron's booster club, is **Dec. 13**, 1 p.m., in the Consolidated Support Center rooms 120 and 145.

The party is for Hearts Apart members and members and their families assigned to the 377th Comptroller Squadron, 377th Mission Support Group, 377th Air Base Wing staff, 377th Civil Engineer Division and the 377th Contracting Squadron.

The party includes pizza, children's games, a pinata and a visit by Santa and his elves.

Call the Family Support Center, 846-0741.

★ Holiday budgeting

Budgeting for the Holidays class is **Dec. 8**, 1:30 p.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.